

Declassified and Approved For Release 2011/12/09 : CIA-RDP10-00750R000100700001-2

Statement of Senator
Dave Durenberger
on Senate Intelligence
Committee Mark-up of
The CIA Spouses' Retirement
Equity Act (S. 2422)
June 17, 1982

Declassified and Approved For Release 2011/12/09 : CIA-RDP10-00750R000100700001-2

STATEMENT OF SENATOR DAVE DURENBERGER
ON SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE MARK-UP
OF THE CIA SPOUSES' RETIREMENT EQUITY ACT (S. 2422)

ASK THE AVERAGE PERSON TO DESCRIBE THE TYPICAL CIA OFFICER AND CHANCES ARE YOU WILL GET A PORTRAIT OF JAMES BOND: THE YOUNG, DASHING, DARING AND, ABOVE ALL ELSE, UNMARRIED SECRET AGENT.

THE FACT IS, OF COURSE, THE TYPICAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICER IS A FAR CRY FROM THE MOVIE IMAGE. WE HAVE DEDICATED, HARD-WORKING MEN AND WOMEN WHO IN MANY CASES, ARE JOINED IN AND REINFORCED IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO OUR COUNTRY BY THEIR SPOUSES AND FAMILIES.

TODAY THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE IS RECOGNIZING THAT NATIONAL SECURITY INTELLIGENCE IS MORE THAN TRADECRAFT AND TECHNOLOGY. INTELLIGENCE IS ALSO PEOPLE, INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, GIVING OF THEMSELVES FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS.

THE HUMAN DIMENSION OF INTELLIGENCE IS TERRIBLY IMPORTANT. I HAVE SEEN THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL MUST WORK. IT'S NO BED OF ROSES WHEN YOU HAVE TO VARY YOUR ROUTES TO AND FROM THE OFFICE, IN CASE TERRORISTS ARE WAITING FOR YOU. IT'S NOT EASY, ECONOMICALLY OR EMOTIONALLY, WHEN SPOUSES ARE SENT TO POSTS IN WHICH PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT IS FORBIDDEN BY THE LAWS

-2-

OR CUSTOMS OF THE HOST COUNTRY OR DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE.

THESE TENSIONS AND FRUSTRATIONS OFTEN LEAD TO SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEMS FOR AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE. FAMILIES ARE LESS WILLING TO BE MOVED AROUND THE WORLD AT THE GOVERNMENT'S WHIM. THE STRAINS ON FAMILIES ARE SEEN BY MORE PEOPLE AS REASONS NOT TO PURSUE A CAREER THAT IS VITAL TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

MANY OF THESE PROBLEMS CANNOT BE AVOIDED, BUT WE CAN EASE SOME OF THE EMOTIONAL AND ECONOMIC TENSIONS. THIS BILL WILL ASSURE THE SPOUSES OF CIA OFFICERS OVERSEAS THAT THEIR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THEIR PARTNERS AND THEIR COUNTRY WILL NOT END IN A NIGHTMARE OF POVERTY BECAUSE OF DIVORCE.

THE ECONOMIC EQUITY ACT (S. 888), WHICH I INTRODUCED LAST YEAR, IS A PARALLEL BILL COVERING THE CIVIL SERVICE AND MILITARY RETIREMENT SYSTEMS. I AM PLEASED TO HAVE OUR VICE CHAIRMAN AS A CO-SPONSOR OF THAT BILL. JUST AS I AM SURE THAT S. 2422 WILL PASS, SO I AM SURE THAT IN TIME ALL GOVERNMENT RETIREMENT SYSTEMS WILL CONTAIN THIS BASIC EQUITY. IT IS THE PATH OF BOTH FAIRNESS AND PRACTICALITY.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT S. 2422 WILL AID IN THE RECRUITMENT OF BRIGHT, MOTIVATED PEOPLE TO SERVE THE CIA. IT WILL ALSO LEAD TO A BETTER FAMILY LIFE FOR CIA OFFICERS OVERSEAS, BY GIVING SPOUSES THE ASSURANCE OF SOME ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

THE CIA SPOUSES' RETIREMENT EQUITY ACT IS MORE, OF COURSE, THAN JUST A RESPONSE TO PERSONNEL PROBLEMS. IT IS TANGIBLE AFFIRMATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF FAIRNESS. A PERSON WHO, FOR OVER TEN YEARS, SHARES THE LIFE OF AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER DESERVES TO SHARE IN THE ECONOMIC SECURITY THAT THE OFFICER ACHIEVES DURING THAT TIME. A LATER DIVORCE DOES NOT ERASE THE SPOUSE'S CONTRIBUTION; WE NEVER REGAIN THOSE YEARS.

WE HAVE ASKED A LOT OF OUR INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. OVER THE YEARS, THEY ALWAYS HAVE RESPONDED. NOW WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CIA SPOUSES AND REPAY THEM BY ASSURING EQUITY. IN GOOD CONSCIENCE, WE CAN DO NO LESS.